

Thou Hast Been Favorable Unto Thy Land (Psalm 85:1-7)

- I. The Gratefulness We Should Show (Vs. 1)
 - A. The Favor Upon This Land (Vs. 1a)
 - B. The Fullness In This Land (Vs. 1b)
 - C. The Freedom Of This Land (Vs. 1c)
- II. The Guilt We Should Share (Vs. 2-5)
 - A. The Past Forbearance Seen (Vs. 2-3)
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 - A. The Stirring Of Revival (Vs. 6)
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Than Has been Favorable Unto Thy Land PS 85:1-7
Several months ago, the words of the Pastor of a well known political figure were plastered all over the media world. Cable news was a buzz of sound bites and video clips of a preacher that wasn't blessing our nation but was blaspheming this nation and the God who wrought its existence. I would agree that our nation greatly deserves the judgment hand of God, but as the psalmist does here we should not call upon his wrath but entrust his mercy. Every Christian here this morning should view our nation through the perspective given in the first 7 verses in PS 85.

I. The Gratefulness We Should Show ^{vs 1}
Although the psalmist is speaking of Israel can we not be thankful to God for this land of America? We live in a day of ingratitude and thanklessness when we ought to bless God for our nation.
A. The Favor upon this Land ^{vs 2}
The psalmist said: "been favorable." That this land has been well pleasing to God. That the smile of God has been placed on this land. We can say that of our nation as well. From its inception in the colonists hearts longing for freedom, through wars and disasters + famine, to this present day God has had a hand of favor upon our nation.

B. The richness in this Land - who
this land. Ps 24:1. But let's face it some
places are just fuller than others.
America is a land filled with rich timber
lands, fertile soil, breath taking
beauties. A land of mountains and minerals
of fields and forests. A land of opportunity
a place of prosperity. This didn't come from
some evolutionary happenstance but from the favor of God

C. The Freedom of this Land - When
the children of Israel were in chains of bond
age, God delivered them and brought them to
a land of freedom. This is the greatest of all
the resources of our nation. The resource
that should be guarded and defended at
all costs. Many have given their lives to
preserve it, while so many daily take it for
granted. Our freedom. Freedom to worship, speak, defend

II. The Guilt We Should Share V/S-51

All is not well in this nation blessed so great
ly by God. I often see the bumper sticker "God
Bless America." I truly pray He continues to do so.
But I ask "why should he?" Why should he bless a sinful
nation as ours

A. The Past Forgiveness Seen - V/S 2+3

One would think that if God miraculously
delivered a people and so richly blessed
them that they would cling to him and serve him
and live happily ever after. No the wickedness of
man's heart is drawn to sin like a moth to a flame

1) Psalms 24:1 The earth is the LORD'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

2) B.R. Lakin in one of his sermons said: "God smiled – and gold poured forth from the rocky crags of the Golden West. God smiled – and wide acres of grain sprang from the soil of the Middle West. God smiled – and the picturesque hills of the East yield black gold in ample abundance to warm our hearths and turn the wheels of industry. God smiled – and the automobile, the airplane and a thousand and one industrial miracles took place before our every eye's."

1) Steal and pillage a people and it's land, when we say it is ok to kill the unborn child, but it's not ok to display the law of God, nor call on His name. Yet God has stayed his hand of wrath from is all.

2) since 1960, total crimes have increased more than 300 percent, with violent crimes increasing more than 550 percent. According to the Justice Department, 99 percent of Americans will be victims of theft at least once in their life and 87 percent will have property stolen three or more times.¹ Since 1960, illegitimate birth rates have increased more than 400 percent. Since 1960, the percentage of families headed by a single parent has more than tripled. Since 1960, the rate at which teenagers are taking their own lives has more than tripled. Suicide is now the second leading cause of death among adolescents.⁴ What sin! what wickedness! Most of which could have been avoided had we as believes had taken a stand a the inception of this sin upon the national stage.

3) Ezekiel 22:30-31 ...sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD.

The psalmist recalls times when Judgment was deserved and God spared. God has spared us deserved judgment in the past, when we enslaved a people, when we
B. The Present Faith of Sin - VS 4+5 yet

God is angry with this nation. It is as though the forbearance seen in the past has run out. God is angry with the wicked every day. (PS 7:11) Wickedness has become the reputation of our Nation. US is world leader in pornography web site, 4th in revenues. From 73-2005 more than 45 million abortions occurred (AGI). How sexual agenda is step by step endeavoring to destroy the faith

C. The Plee for Salvation - VS 4
Turn us O God! This should be the plea of every christian in America. A national repentance. In Ezekiel's day, God sought ³Let that not be said of America. We share in much of the responsibility of the blight of sin upon our nation. I remember old Jack Hyles saying "You can save America! Stand in the Gap for the throne of God!" Fall out

III. The God We Should Seek -
VS 6+7 has the remedy for a nation that has forgotten God. ch 10 vs 16 and 17 and 18 the psalmist tells us what we should seek for!

A. The Sattering of Renewal - America needs an old fashioned heavensent renewal God can send another great awakening to our nation! Several years ago my

pastor to all us preachers here to visit the Red river meeting house in Beaugue hollow Kentucky. The original meet^{ing} house burnt down years ago, a replica is there today. It was the birth place of the Second great Awakening during the 1800's. You would be shocked to learn what a wicked society America had just before Civil war. A sinful day much like our own. But in that little one room meeting house God lit the fires of revival that consumed this nation and
B. The Staying of Wrath¹⁵ We pray for God's mercy upon our nation as the psalmist did for his own. That God would stay his hand of wrath and deserv^{ing} justice and in turn breathe a reviving breath upon our nation that we may rejoice in the one true God of our salvation instead of lamenting its many and varied sins. There is hope for America. The psalmist in verse 8 expresses his confidence in the true and living God to answer his prayer. Are we waiting and seeking for our nation to turn. it starts w/ us.

IV. Closing - We live in a blessed nation but a nation that turning not toward God but toward Judgment! How many of you would volunteer to stand in the Gap! It starts with you! Revival starts w/ you!

- 1) ...and swept thousands into the kingdom of God before
the Civil War!